THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI):(a) to (d) Retail prices of 14 essential commodities including wheat, sugar and vanaspati are monitored by the Department of Consumer Affairs on a regular basis. According to their information, prices of wheat, sugar and vanaspati have not gone up at an alarming rate. As such, the question of food processing industries being forced to rethink the production on this ground does not arise.

India as illegal drug transit

1661. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has come out with a report which has included India as one of the major drug transit and illicit drug producing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) India has been identifying as one of the major illicit drug producing and/or drug transit countries in the US Department of State's International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for the year 2003.

(b) An comprehensive report containing overall counter narcotics performance of India for the year 2004 has been/is being furnished to the U.S. authority for annual certification by the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance).

Authorised Blood Banks

1662. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the source and amount of blood collected by Blood Banks in the country with details of authorised Blood Banks;

(b) whether blood is also imported from foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, with amount spent on such imports annually and measures put in place to ensure the imported blood is not contaminated/infected.

(d) whether it is a fact that blood imported from U.K. was infected with 'Mad Cow Disease' virus; and

(e) if so, the details of such imports and the action taken to assess the damage caused by infected blood and contain further damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Blood is collected in the country from voluntary and replacement donors. During 2003, 1988344 units of blood through voluntary and 1949122 units of blood through replacement donations were collected. As per the information received from Drugs Controller General (India), there are 1854 licensed blood banks in the country. The details are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no import of blood from U.K. However, blood products derived from human plasma were imported from U.K. Investigations conducted by Drug Controller General (India) revealed that 22 vials of Vigam-S 5g (Human Normal Immunoglobulin) batch No. VGC 085 manufactured by M/s Bio Products Laboratory, U.K. was imported in India from a blood donor in U.K. who later developed variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (vCJD). M/s Bio Products Laboratory, U.K. exported this consignment to M/s Genexx Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi in 1997. The manufacturing date of the said Lot was July 1997 and expiry date August 1999.

According to the WHO, there is no credible instance of transmission of vCJD through blood products. The Government has not received any reported incidents of vCJD disease through blood products in the country so far.

Statement

Statewise list of Licensed Blood Banks in the country

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of licensed Blood Banks
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	168
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3
4	Assam	48
5	Bihar	41
6	Chandigarh	3
7	Chhattisgarh	17
8	Daman & Diu	1
9	Delhi	42
10	Goa	7
11	Gujarat	140
12	Haryana	35
13	Himachal Pradesh	12
14	Jammu & Kashmir	14
15	Jharkhand	22
16	Karnataka	131
17	Kerala	123
18	Madhya Pradesh	104
19	Maharashtra	246
20	Manipur	3
21	Meghalaya	4

1	2	3
22	Mizoram	5
23	Nagaland	3
24	Orissa	72
25	Pondicherry	11
26	Punjab	69
27	Rajasthan	61
28	Sikkim	3
29	Tamil Nadu	185
30	Tripura	6
31	Uttar Pradesh	130
32	Uttaranchal	17
33	West Bengal	126
	TOTAL:	1854

Disparity of ACP among Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Allopathic Pharmacists

1663. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ayurvedic and homoeopathic pharmacists in CGHS are being given first ACP (after 12 years) starting from Rs. 5500/- whereas the allopathic pharmacists in CGHS get first ACP (after 12 years) at Rs. 5000/-;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said disparity; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring at par the ayurvedic, homoeopathic and allopathic pharmacists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.